

My Little Pony

**The
Night**

**Before
Christmas**



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My Little Pony

The Night Before Christmas

Written by John Braden
Illustrated by Parrott Graphics



This is your My Little Pony Read-Along Book. Every time you hear this chime . . . it means it's time to turn the page in your storybook. Now, if you are ready, we will start the story, "The Night Before Christmas." Don't forget to turn the page every time you hear the chime.

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'Twas the night before Christmas in
Pony Land, and outside, the December
weather was cold and windy. A strong
breeze whipped the flags around and
around on top of the Dream Castle and
blew the big bow on top of the Lullabye
Nursery in all directions.





It seemed only yesterday that it was autumn and Gusty was teaching Baby Gusty and the other baby ponies to frolic together in the piles of red, yellow, and orange leaves. How fast the days had gone by!

Now, it was Christmas Eve.



Inside the warm, snug nursery, all the mother ponies and baby ponies were busy getting ready for Christmas Day. That very afternoon, Whizzer had flapped her pegasus wings and dashed up into the sky on a fluffy white cloud to the Magic Rainbow. The Rainbow had given her a beautiful pine tree that made Whizzer's twinkle eyes sparkle ever so brightly. The tree now stood in the center of the Lullabye Nursery, ready for all the ponies to decorate.

The ponies had been preparing for Christmas for almost a month. There had been so much to do!

Lofty had offered to take charge of decorating the Lullabye Nursery. With Ribbon and Buttons to help her, Lofty had gathered big pine cones



in the woods. Ribbon was now hanging them from silky red ribbons all around the nursery. The pine cones made their little house smell wonderful!

Ribbon looked over at Lofty, who was nailing some holly to the walls. "I'm so glad you chose the green holly with its red berries. It really fills the nursery with Christmas cheer!"

"Together, we'll make our Christmas decorations really special!" agreed Lofty. "Just look at Buttons and all the beautiful, colored ribbons covered with buttons and shells she's hanging on the tree."

Magic Star was doing her bit by adding a glittering star at the top of the tree, while at her feet, Wind Whistler and Gusto were placing lots of gaily wrapped presents for the baby ponies.

Baby Gusty nuzzled a big box with *her* name on it, and her beddy-bye eyes opened wide with excitement. "Oh, what can this be?" she wondered. "The box is almost as big as I am! I can't wait until tomorrow morning so I can open my present and find out what my friends are giving me for Christmas."

Baby Ribbon looked at the tiny box with *her* name on it. "What can this be?" she wondered. "Why, the bow is bigger than the box!"

One by one, the baby ponies nuzzled and brushed up eagerly against their presents. They wouldn't have long to wait to find out what was inside, for tomorrow was Christmas Day!

Standing on her hind legs, Lofty finished putting up the last of the decorations — a sprig of green mistletoe with white berries. Turning to the ponies, she exclaimed, "Oh, just imagine all the kisses the baby ponies will get when they walk through the door under the mistletoe!"



The mother ponies and baby ponies all smiled. They were surrounded by the happy sights and delicious smells of Christmas!



Over in one corner, though, one baby pony didn't seem happy. It was Baby Shady. Her little beddy-bye eyes drooped sadly as she sat gazing out the window.

Seeing her baby's sad face, Mother Shady nuzzled over to her and asked, "What's wrong, Baby Shady? This is a night to be happy."

"Oh, the wind is blowing so hard, but it isn't blowing any snow into Pony Land," said Baby Shady as tiny tears crept out of her beddy-bye eyes. "It just won't seem like Christmas without snow."

Her mother gently answered, "I don't want you to be disappointed, Baby Shady, but I don't think any snow will fall tonight. There isn't a cloud in the sky. All I can see are millions and millions of twinkling stars."

Baby Shady sighed and said sadly, "I guess you're right. Mothers always are." Baby Shady pressed her nose harder against the frosty window and whispered into the night, "But that won't stop me from wishing for snow. I love snow! Maybe if I wish hard enough, I'll get snow for Christmas. That would be the nicest present of all!"





Mother Shady wanted to do something to cheer her baby. So she turned to the other ponies and said, "I have an idea. Why don't we all sing some Christmas carols!"

Wind Whistler danced around. She loved the idea, because she loved music, even though she often sang silly songs. "Let's start with *Hall the Decks!*" cried Wind Whistler excitedly. "I mean *Deck the Halls*... Oh, dear! I'm so excited, I'm getting my mixing all talked up... I mean my talking all mixed up!"

The ponies laughed, then gathered around Wind Whistler and sang one of their favorite Christmas songs.

Deck the halls with boughs of holly,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la, la-la.
'Tis the season to be jolly,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la, la-la.
Don we now our gay apparel,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la, la-la.
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la, la-la.
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la, la-la.
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la, la-la.





"That was great!" said Wind Whistler as she stamped her hooves with excitement. "Let's sing another song! How about *Bingle Jells*?"

"*Bingle Jells*!" exclaimed Shady, puzzled. "What kind of song is that?"

Wind Whistler grinned sheepishly. "Oh, dear, I did it again! I mean *Jingle Bells*."

"Wonderful! Wonderful!" cried Shady. "Let's all sing *Jingle Bells*."

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh.
O'er the fields we go,
Laughing all the way.
Bells on bobtails ring
Making spirits bright.
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight.
Oh, Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells,
Jingle all the way.
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh! Hey!
Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells,
Jingle all the way.
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse
open sleigh!







By now, the hour had grown late. Darkness had fallen across the Lullabye Nursery. It was time for all the baby ponies to be tucked into their cribs and for the mother ponies to return to the Dream Castle to go to bed. In just a few short hours, it would be Christmas morning.

As Magic Star lighted the way, the mother ponies headed toward their beds in the Dream Castle. Each pony was wishing a special Christmas wish.



"I wish that the joy and love we feel tonight can last all year long!" wished Lofty.

"I wish that every boy and girl and every mother and baby pony in the whole world is safe and happy tonight," wished Mother Shady.

Baby Shady's wish was a little more personal. "I wish for snow. Piles and piles of fluffy white snow!" she wished as her beddy-bye eyes began to close.

That wish was the last thought Baby Shady had that night, for moments later, she was fast asleep.

Soon, all the other baby ponies closed their beddy-bye eyes and drifted off to dreamland too.





As the ponies slept, one silent figure crept quietly out of the Dream Castle and was soon flying high in the nighttime sky. That figure stopped to talk to the wind, then the clouds and then the air.

Soon, something wonderful began to happen miles and miles above Pony Land. One by one, little ice crystals began forming. Like tiny angels, each little crystal began the long fall down toward the ground.



They spun around and around, and seemed to dance on the wind. First, one fell, then ten, then hundreds of crystals fell, turning into lacy snowflakes, each with its own special design.

Of course, there was a chance when the snowflakes reached the warmer air near the ground, they might melt. But if the wind and the clouds and the air worked their very special magic, Baby Shady's Christmas wish might just come true.





Soon, the first of the snowflakes *did* reach the ground. Now, that little snowflake was not alone. It was followed by hundreds and thousands — no millions! — of beautiful snowflakes falling out of the midnight blue sky.



The snowflakes settled everywhere, on the rolling hills and in the treetops, on the roofs of the Lullabye Nursery and the Dream Castle. Down, down fell the snow, quietly covering everything in sight and magically transforming the nursery and castle into a snowy wonderland.

The next morning, the excited baby ponies were up at dawn, prancing around with excitement. They tried hard not to make noises and waken their sleeping mothers over in the Dream Castle, but it was no use. Their excited voices carried up to the castle. Soon, all the mother ponies were up. They trotted over to the Lullabye Nursery and gently brushed their babies' colorful manes.

"Can we go into the other room now to open our presents?" asked Baby Ribbon excitedly.

"I think everyone's ready," said her mother.

The ponies hurried into the brightly decorated room. Only Baby Shady stayed behind.

"Come on, Baby Shady," called her mother from the doorway, "It's Christmas Day. Let's join our friends."





“Oh, all right,” said Baby Shady glumly. “Only there’s no surprise for me today.” Baby Shady started walking toward the door, saying, “My one wish — my only wish — was for . . . Oh, oh, oh, look, Mother! Look outside! It’s — it’s snow! It must have fallen during the night and now all of Pony Land is covered in beautiful white snow! Oh, Mother, my wish came true!”



Mother Shady simply smiled and nuzzled her baby. For mothers know how to make magic happen at Christmas!

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